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Chairman: Mr. Ashe ..... (Antigua and Barbuda)
Acting Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Saha

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05-61055 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Agenda item 140: Financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (A/59/657; A/60/389 and A/60/536)

1. **Ms. Pollard** (Director of the Peacekeeping Financing Division) introduced the performance report on the budget of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004 (A/59/657) and the report of the Secretary-General on the budget for the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo for the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006 (A/60/389).

2. In the performance report (A/59/657), the outputs delivered by the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) during the period under review were shown in results-based frameworks, grouped by components. Against a total appropriation of $641 million, the Mission had incurred expenditures of $636.5 million, resulting in an unencumbered balance of $4.5 million and a budget implementation rate of 99.3 per cent. That represented an improvement of 17 per cent compared with the rate for 2002/03. Key variances included a 5 per cent increase in resource requirements under military and police personnel, attributable to accelerated deployment of military contingents and civilian police; a 4.4 per cent increase under civilian personnel, reflecting a lower-than-budgeted vacancy rate and increased requirements for common staff costs; and a 7.7 per cent decrease under operational costs, owing to the deferral to 2004/05 of several airfield renovation projects.

3. Turning to the proposed budget for MONUC for the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006, she said that the planned outputs and indicators of achievement were outlined in section I of the relevant report (A/60/389). The results-based frameworks reflected a revised component structure based on the recommendations contained in the third special report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/2004/650). In that document, the Secretary-General had elaborated the critical path of the transition, focusing on the most essential elements necessary to establish peace and security in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

4. The budget amounted to $1,147,530,000, excluding budgeted voluntary contributions of $3.2 million. That represented an increase of 20.2 per cent compared with the apportionment for 2004/05. The budget provided for the deployment of 15,814 military contingent personnel, 760 military observers, 625 formed police personnel, 391 civilian police officers, 1,179 international staff, 2,225 national staff and 702 United Nations Volunteers, inclusive of 73 international staff, 274 national staff and 160 United Nations Volunteers for a six-month period in support of elections and 9 international staff and 5 national staff for the Conduct and Discipline Unit, funded under general temporary assistance.

5. Key variances included a 17.6 per cent increase in resource requirements under military and police personnel, attributable to the full deployment of the authorized strength, including the additional personnel approved by the Security Council in its resolution 1621 (2005); a 24.1 per cent increase under civilian personnel as a result of the expansion of the Mission and increased requirements for the provision of logistical support for the elections; and a 21.1 per cent increase under operational costs, due primarily to increased requirements for air operations and for the transportation of electoral materials.

6. The General Assembly was requested to decide on the treatment of the unencumbered balance for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004, amounting to $4.6 million, and of other income/adjustments for the same period, totalling $28.3 million. It was further requested to appropriate the amount of $1,147,530,000 for the maintenance of MONUC for the 12-month period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006, inclusive of the amount of $383.2 million previously approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 59/285 B.

7. Since the preparation of the budget, the Security Council, by its resolution 1635 (2005), had extended the mandate of the Mission until 30 September 2006. Consequently, an additional amount of $797.5 million would have to be assessed on Member States for the period 2005/06, based on the proposed budget. By the same resolution, the Council had authorized an increase of 300 personnel in the military strength of MONUC to provide additional security during the electoral period. Should additional resources be

required in that connection, a request for commitment authority would be submitted to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ). The related expenditures would be reported in the context of the performance report for MONUC for the period 2005/06.

8. As at 15 November 2005, $205.7 million had been available in the Special Account for MONUC. Given the current level of unpaid assessments — $298.2 million as at 31 October 2005, including assessments within the 30-day due period — and taking into account the likely timing of the receipt of new assessed contributions, which would not begin to be received until after the General Assembly adopted a resolution on the financing of the Mission for the period 2005/06, it was anticipated that some $25 million would have to be borrowed for MONUC from closed missions in January 2006. It would not therefore be possible to make payments to reimburse troop-contributing countries in December 2005.

9. **Mr. Saha** (Acting Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the related report of ACABQ (A/60/536), said that the Advisory Committee recommended a reduction of $12.8 million in the proposed budget for MONUC for the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006. Most of that reduction related to delays in the deployment schedules of military and civilian personnel.

10. There had been a history of difficulties with the preparation of the MONUC budget, which, to some extent, reflected the very difficult nature of the Mission itself. The Advisory Committee had made a number of recommendations aimed at achieving a more rational organizational structure and more transparent budgeting. In that context, it took note of the Secretariat's efforts to make the budget document clearer and more concise.

11. With regard to military personnel, the Advisory Committee noted that the standard practice was for military contingents to provide for their own logistic and support capacities. The arrangements proposed for MONUC appeared to represent a departure from that practice. Indeed, a significant number of functions were to be transferred from the military to the civilian component of the Mission. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommended that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations should carry out a study of the matter, as it related to all missions, for submission to the relevant bodies.

12. In paragraphs 22 and 23 of its report, the Advisory Committee examined the follow-up to its earlier recommendations on contractor delivery of rations by air. In response to those recommendations, an alternate mode of delivery had been developed. The Advisory Committee trusted that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations would look into the possibility of applying that mode of delivery to other missions, where feasible.

13. Concerning civilian personnel, the Advisory Committee was disappointed at the slow pace of implementation of its recommendation for a comprehensive review of the Mission's organizational structure. There would be limited value in undertaking a detailed examination of the proposed staffing of the Mission for 2005/06 because those proposals might well be altered in the light of the findings of the review. Under the circumstances, the Advisory Committee would defer detailed recommendations on posts to its consideration of the proposed budget for MONUC for 2006/07, which should incorporate the findings of the comprehensive review. In the meantime, the Mission should continue to hire the personnel it deemed essential under the conditions set out in paragraph 28 of the Advisory Committee's report.

14. Another issue of general concern was the Joint Mission Analysis Cell (JMAC) concept. A paper on the JMAC concept was being prepared for submission to the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations in the near future. The Advisory Committee urged the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to complete the paper as a matter of urgency so that it could be taken into account in the preparation of proposed peacekeeping budgets for 2006/07.

15. As to operational costs, the estimate had been reduced on the basis of the revised deployment schedule. The reduction related mainly to air transportation costs.

16. Lastly, the Advisory Committee requested that, in future, requirements for staffing and other resources for MONUC offices outside the Mission area should be reflected accurately and transparently and that a clear link should be made between each of those offices and the mandate of the Mission. It also called for greater coordination between MONUC and the various

agencies, funds and programmes in the Mission area; a workplan should be developed utilizing best practices, and the plan arrived at should be implemented in a coordinated manner.

17. **Mr. Horner** (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the European Union; the acceding countries Bulgaria and Romania; the candidate countries Croatia and Turkey; the stabilization and association process countries Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; and, in addition, Iceland, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, said that the European Union commended the Advisory Committee for its thorough analysis of the proposed budget for MONUC, its pertinent comments and its recommendations for savings amounting to $12.8 million. It agreed with the Advisory Committee that, in certain areas, further savings might be realized.

18. He expressed appreciation to the staff of MONUC, who worked in an extremely demanding environment, and paid tribute to the 62 troops and staff who had given their lives in the pursuit of peace. The importance of a credible, transparent election process for long-term peace and stability in the Democratic Republic of the Congo could not be overstated. In that connection, the registration of over 20 million voters was a commendable achievement.

19. The European Union recognized that the recent revisions to the Mission's mandate had made staffing requirements more difficult to forecast. At the same time, it noted that the outcome of the comprehensive review of the Mission's organizational structure would not be presented to the General Assembly until May 2006, some two years after it had been requested, and it fully agreed with the Advisory Committee that, in the meantime, any additional personnel should be hired on temporary contracts.

20. The European Union welcomed the steps taken to address the serious issue of sexual exploitation and abuse. A crucial factor in preventing misconduct was mainstreaming of gender awareness across peacekeeping missions. Senior mission staff should continue their efforts to enforce a zero-tolerance approach, and all persons responsible for sexual exploitation and abuse should be held accountable. Troop-contributing countries, for their part, must ensure that established standards were strictly applied with respect to their own troops.

21. The European Union noted with concern that coordination between MONUC and the various agencies, funds and programmes in the Mission area had often proved difficult because of their different approaches. It understood that efforts were under way to review the existing coordination structure, and would welcome an explanation from the Secretariat of what remained to be done in order to enhance workplan coordination on the ground and to develop and implement a coherent workplan. It wished to underscore that optimum use of resources was essential in a country as large as the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

22. As the Advisory Committee had stated, a clear link should be made between each office outside the Mission area and the Mission's mandate. In addition, the Secretariat should indicate what the functions of those offices were and what value they added. The information made available to the Advisory Committee in that regard should be provided to the Fifth Committee in informal consultations. The Secretariat should also clarify whether the proposed arrangements for the provision of logistic and support capacities to military contingents were in line with standard practice or constituted a change of policy.

23. The European Union welcomed the commitment by the Administration to establish an integrated training service. It trusted that that initiative would result in the adoption of a more strategic approach in terms of both the types of training offered and the resources requested for those activities. It also welcomed the new mode of delivering rations and the new approach to air services.

24. Lastly, the European Union noted with satisfaction that, should the Mission be unable to absorb the additional expenses arising from the increase in military strength approved in Security Council resolution 1635 (2005), the Secretary-General would seek commitment authority instead of referring the matter to the General Assembly.

25. **Ms. Udo** (Nigeria), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, commended the peoples of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for their clear determination to move forward. The preparations for the holding of elections were worthy of note, and every effort should be made to provide adequate support to that process.

26. MONUC had a vital role to play in bringing peace and stability to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the subregion. It could fulfil its mandate only with the tangible support of all Member States. The African Union, too, made an important contribution. The determination of African Heads of State to tackle crises on the African continent was clearly enunciated in the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and was an essential element for the attainment of workable solutions. In that regard, the Group welcomed the commitment shown by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to promoting good governance and transparent economic management, both of which were key elements of NEPAD.

27. Much remained to be done if the gains already made in the Democratic Republic of the Congo were to be secured and sustained, and MONUC must therefore be provided with the resources necessary for the full discharge of its mandate. The revised component structure would facilitate the Mission's activities and enable it to work more effectively with transitional leaders and international partners. In order for the electoral process to move forward, security must be re-established throughout the vast territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, border control mechanisms must be put in place and the necessary legislative framework must be developed.

28. The Secretary-General had taken those crucial elements into consideration in preparing the proposed budget for the Mission for 2005/06. The Group wished to commend the considerable efforts made to improve the budget presentation and the use of results-based frameworks. However, it would welcome an assurance that the adjustments already made to the estimated requirements in order to reflect actual deployment and incumbency rates would not adversely affect the Mission's ability to discharge its mandate, especially in the light of the increase in the Mission's military strength authorized by the Security Council in its resolution 1635 (2005). Moreover, the Secretariat should elaborate on the arrangements being made for the provision of logistic and support capacities to troops, including the expansion of the regional hub in Entebbe, Uganda, and should indicate what steps it was taking to fill vacancies in MONUC. The Mission had experienced high attrition rates and difficulties in attracting staff, and the recruitment of staff on temporary contracts, as recommended by the Advisory Committee, would only exacerbate that situation. The proposed conversion of 395 interpreter/translator individual contractor positions to national General Service posts could help to reduce the high vacancy rates in the Mission. It was therefore not clear to the Group why the Advisory Committee had recommended against the proposal, particularly since the General Assembly had already approved such conversions in other peacekeeping missions.

29. The Group welcomed the increased use of national staff in MONUC, which contributed to capacity-building and to the transfer of know-how. However, it wished to know why the average grade level of Congolese staff had been budgeted at G-2, step 1, and what the budgeted level was in other peacekeeping missions. Also, the Advisory Committee should explain how it had concluded that there was sufficient capacity to redeploy existing staff to cover the surge of activities during the electoral phase, particularly in the area of public information. It should have awaited the outcome of the comprehensive review of the Mission's organizational structure before making such a recommendation. Furthermore, the strategic role of public information in other areas of the Mission's mandate should have been taken into account. Lastly, the Advisory Committee should explain its recommendation that a phased approach should be taken to the deployment of personnel in support of the elections, given that the elections would take place within six months.

30. The Group noted with satisfaction the steps taken by the Mission to ensure more cost-effective delivery of rations, including the use of road transport. Contingency plans should be made so as to avoid any disruption of deliveries. The Group also welcomed the airfield renovation projects being undertaken and trusted that they would be speedily completed. It commended the Mission for having achieved savings through the revision of air services contracts. The strengthening of the capacity of the airport at Entebbe, Uganda, which was readily accessible overland from several major seaports, would contribute to the smoother operation of other peacekeeping missions in the region.

31. The Group welcomed the Mission's efforts to investigate and deal with instances of sexual exploitation and abuse and the preventive measures put in place.

32. **Ms. Lock** (South Africa) said that the transitional Government had made significant strides in implementing the terms of the peace agreement and that the United Nations had intensified its activities to support the Congolese people in their preparations for the referendum to be held in December 2005 and the presidential and legislative elections to be held in early 2006. The budget proposal before the Committee, contained in document A/60/389, reflected the resources required by the Mission in order to respond to its revised mandate and to the condensed time lines for the elections.

33. Changing needs on the ground had necessitated a continuous revision of military operations and other substantive components of the Mission's mandate, leading to the necessary revision of its logistical and administrative-support components. MONUC required some stability in the staffing of its civilian component, and her delegation would have welcomed a recommendation by the Advisory Committee to establish the posts requested in the budget proposal. The Secretary-General had recently reaffirmed that staff shortages were restricting the Mission's capacity to support the multiple demands of the electoral process and robust military operations in the eastern part of the country.

34. Her delegation therefore believed that MONUC should complete the review of its structures as a matter of urgency, but remained to be convinced by the Advisory Committee's proposal, contained in its report (A/60/536), that personnel should be appointed on temporary contracts. In view of the enormous challenges facing the transitional Government and the United Nations in reaching all eligible voters, her delegation was also unconvinced by the Advisory Committee's observation that election personnel should be hired in stages. Moreover, her delegation was concerned at the Advisory Committee's view that the Mission's public information needs could be met through the redeployment of current capacity. The Mission's public information activities played a crucial role in ensuring that the electoral and political processes were well understood by the population and all political parties, and were crucial for the implementation of the other components of its mandate.

35. With respect to the Advisory Committee's recommendation, contained in paragraph 34 of its report, that the planned conversion of 395 interpreter/translator individual contractor positions to national General Service posts should not go forward, the Committee should recognize that interpreters and translators played an important role in supporting the Mission's civilian and military components, and the posts should be converted, in accordance with the Secretary-General's request. In that regard, her delegation did not see why the General Assembly should deviate from its previously stated position on the matter, as expressed in its resolution 59/296.

36. **Mr. Mumbey-Wafula** (Uganda) said that security and a stable political climate in the Democratic Republic of the Congo were of paramount importance to Uganda. However, as negative forces continued to operate in the country's eastern regions, the associated security problems must be firmly and decisively resolved. Uganda therefore welcomed the full deployment of troops and civilian police in the eastern regions, as provided for in the budget proposal, with a view to eliminating all negative forces and restoring security. All delegations must make a full commitment to ensuring the appropriation of resources commensurate with the Mission's hugely complex task.

37. Uganda therefore supported the Secretary-General's request for $1,147,530,000 and would give objective consideration to the Advisory Committee's proposal to reduce that amount to $1,134,737,300, in the light of the current situation on the ground. To enable MONUC to achieve its various objectives, the Secretary-General should implement the revised component structure, which reflected a shift of focus towards peace and security. His delegation would endeavour to reconcile the Mission's needs with the recommendations of the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee.

38. Although the emphasis on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1565 (2004) was welcome, the situation on the ground had shown that the Mission lacked the troops, civilian police and resources it needed in order to have the desired impact. More resources would therefore be required in the near future, but in the meantime his delegation wished to know how the Mission planned to ensure safety and security in the country as a whole within the allocated resources, and whether any constraints were anticipated during and after the electoral process.

39. His delegation welcomed the use, development and expansion of the Entebbe logistics base and would

provide all the necessary support in the interest of the efficient use of resources. In that regard, the projected procurement savings were a welcome step in the right direction. The expanded logistics base would continue to be available to MONUC, the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS), the United Nations Operation in Burundi (ONUB) and the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) on a common-use basis.

40. Uganda supported the funding of quick-impact projects because they provided the critical mass necessary in the early stages of the peacemaking and peacebuilding processes. With respect to the high vacancy rate within MONUC, he asked how the Mission planned to address the problem and whether the situation was affecting the Mission's performance. Although the proposed 15-per-cent increase in the MONUC budget was intended to reflect the Mission's additional mandates, it was still far from adequate.

41. **Ms. Attwooll** (United States of America) said that her delegation wished to thank the Mission for the considerable improvement in the presentation of its budget and for the additional information provided concerning its response to the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, which in some cases had led to greater economies and improved delivery of services. However, her delegation was very disappointed to note that the review of the Mission structure, which had been repeatedly requested by the Advisory Committee, had not been completed in time for inclusion in the budget proposal.

42. Although the budget proposal reflected a commendable effort to link new posts to the Mission's revised mandate, it did not indicate whether or how existing capacities had been taken into consideration, and gave the impression that new posts were being "layered on" without any reprioritization of existing posts.

43. In view of the prominent role played by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in supporting elections, her delegation would welcome information on its relationship with MONUC in that area, together with more details on the provision of logistical support for the elections and on how that support would be provided within such a short time frame.

44. She asked why support for the Western Brigade and the newly deployed Eastern Brigades would be provided by civilian personnel, and requested information on the financial and operational implications of such an approach. She also asked what efforts were being made to utilize and build local capacity to support contingents in remote areas, and would welcome an update on progress made within the Mission to address the issue of sexual exploitation and abuse.

45. **Mr. Kozaki** (Japan) said that, while the format of the MONUC budget had been improved in response to ACABQ recommendations, the budget itself had been submitted late, delaying efforts to strengthen the Mission's management. His delegation was bewildered as to why the Secretariat had hired outside consultants to perform a comprehensive review of the structure of the Mission as late as mid-October 2005.

46. The delegation of Japan reiterated the opinion, already expressed during discussion of the Mission in March 2005, that existing as well as additional resources must be fully justified. It had made clear its disappointment with the revised budget proposals for 2004/05 and with the approval of commitment authority, with assessment, in May 2005. Because the Advisory Committee's recommendation for a comprehensive review of the Mission's structure had remained unimplemented, the review had not been reflected in the proposed budget for 2005/06, and the Advisory Committee had been forced to defer consideration of the proposed posts until budget proposals for 2006/07 were discussed. As a result, the Committee must once again consider the large MONUC budget without the benefit of a review of the Mission's organizational and post structure.

47. The priorities of the Mission should determine resource management, with existing staff being reassigned to meet those priorities. More staff had been allocated to the Office of Public Information in view of the forthcoming election, but, as the election was likely to be completed by the end of June 2006, the Office's staffing level must be reviewed in advance of the budget for 2006/07. Conversion of translators' and interpreters' contracts should be approached with caution, as demand for such staff would diminish after the election. It was generally inappropriate for the Secretariat to hire people as individual contractors and then convert their positions into posts by claiming their work as a core activity.

48. His delegation would like more information about existing practice and future plans in the field of coordination between MONUC and United Nations agencies, funds and programmes. A work plan should be developed to enhance such coordination.

49. **Ms. Samayoa-Recari** (Guatemala) said that her delegation wished to associate itself with the statement made by the representative of Nigeria on behalf of the Group of African States, and also wished to express its concern that reimbursements would not be made to MONUC troop- and equipment-contributing countries in December 2005, as well as its hope that the situation would be resolved in the near future.

50. **Mr. Prato** (Uruguay) said that Uruguay had always been fully committed to the important work of United Nations peacekeeping operations. It had contributed 1,750 peacekeepers to the operation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and had thus been able to observe the peace process at close range. Uruguay remained concerned at the security situation, particularly in the country's eastern regions, and at the potential impact of that situation on the upcoming elections.

51. The report of the Advisory Committee appeared to indicate a positive response to the Secretary-General's request for additional resources, while remaining cautious with regard to the management-related aspects. In the view of his delegation, it would not be possible to strengthen the peace process and hold elections without an adequate level of resources. His delegation therefore urged Member States to support MONUC at the most crucial phase of its operations, in order to give the Congolese people the chance to begin their long-delayed journey towards development.

52. **Mr. Kisswany** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that his delegation wished to associate itself with the statement made by the representative of Nigeria on behalf of the Group of African States and to express its support for the key role played by the Group on the African continent. The Syrian Arab Republic had noted the Advisory Committee's recommendation that the proposed budget for MONUC should be reduced, and wished to explore the potential impact of the recommended reduction on the fulfilment of the Mission's mandate. The conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo was the oldest conflict on the continent, and should therefore receive the highest priority. Ending the conflict would have a positive effect on other ongoing conflicts in Africa.

53. **Mr. Sach** (Controller) said he wished to re-emphasize that contributions were not being made to MONUC on a timely basis and that it was the only large peacekeeping mission with respect to which it would not be possible to make reimbursements in December 2005. He therefore urged Member States to make their contributions in as timely a manner as possible so that the situation could be rectified.

Agenda item 123: Programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 (*continued*)

Agenda item 124: Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 (*continued*)

Administrative expenses of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund (*continued*)
(A/60/7/Add.7 and A/60/183)

54. **Mr. Repasch** (United States of America) said that the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund must be given the resources it needed in order to work effectively, but must also be administered efficiently so as to retain the confidence of the participating organizations and Member States which provided the resources that the Fund invested. His delegation was pleased that the Fund's value had increased substantially and that actuarial valuations had shown surpluses since 1997. However, as the number of staff members retiring and beginning to draw benefits increased, along with membership of the Fund (which stood at about 85,000, compared with about 80,000 two years previously), more growth would be needed to cope with future obligations.

55. The United States delegation agreed with the conclusion of the working group set up by the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board's Standing Committee that the Fund's budget proposals must make a clearer distinction between recurrent and non-recurrent costs. It also agreed with the Standing Committee that the budget of the Fund must be based on the resources it needed to achieve its objectives. To that end, the Fund must refine its indicators of achievement and monitor progress towards targets, just as other parts of the Organization did.

56. While endorsing the Advisory Committee's recommendations on the Fund's staffing, the United

States would like clarification of those regarding the reclassification of staff in the Investment Management Service. Furthermore, it wondered whether, in the Secretariat's view, such action would help to reduce the fragmentation of the important functions of that Service. If so, his delegation favoured early implementation of the proposed reclassification, mindful of the Fifth Committee's desire to correct the many problems which the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) had reported in its earlier audit of the Investment Management Service.

57. The United States delegation wondered whether the lower estimated cost of external audits by the Board of Auditors reflected reduced audit coverage or better audit efficiency. With regard to internal audit coverage, it would like to know whether OIOS had hired individuals with the skills needed to examine the highly complex operations of the Fund.

58. He asked why the General Assembly was being requested to authorize supplementary funding of up to $200,000 for the Emergency Fund in 2006-2007, as, in recent budget periods, the amounts drawn from that Fund had been considerably smaller. He also asked for information on the level of voluntary contributions to the Emergency Fund.

59. With regard to the revised budget estimates for 2004-2005, he understood that small capitalization portfolio management fees — which had increased substantially — were determined by the market value of the funds managed, but wondered if there were better ways to predict them.

60. Turning to the follow-up of past requests of the General Assembly, the United States delegation would like details on the progress made towards setting up an audit committee to provide expert advice and guidance, and urged the Pension Board to act rapidly on that matter. It also looked forward to a speedy response to the General Assembly's 2002 request that the Pension Board should study ways of making the representation of the Fund's member organizations on the Board more equitable.

Agenda item 124: Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 (*continued*)

Possibility of operating guided tours, bookstores and gift shops at the United Nations Office at Nairobi and the cost implications thereof (*continued*) (A/59/793; A/60/7 and Corr.1)

61. **Mr. Belov** (Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts), recalling that the representative of Nigeria, at the Committee's twenty-third meeting, had asked whether the Secretariat had considered the educational value of guided tours at the United Nations Office at Nairobi, said that the feasibility study conducted by that office had indeed taken account of that factor.

62. The Secretary-General, in paragraph 6 of his report (A/59/793), had enumerated the conditions which would prevent tours from being operated effectively and efficiently. The effectiveness of tours depended on the amount of cultural and historical information available at the site in question and on the site's location in the host city, while their efficiency depended on having a critical mass of tourists in the host city. The visual appeal of the Nairobi complex was limited by its small collection of artefacts, while its relatively remote location and current security situation prevented walk-in visits. Under those circumstances, the Secretary-General had recommended against investing funds in guided tours at the United Nations Office at Nairobi.

63. **Ms. Udo** (Nigeria), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, requested written clarification of how the feasibility study referred to in the report of the Secretary-General had been conducted. She asked why the small collection of artefacts at the Nairobi complex had been considered an obstacle to guided tours, particularly as more artefacts could be donated, and wondered what provisions for aesthetic improvements had been made in the current building plans for the site. She also asked why it was assumed that visitor numbers would be low, and requested recent statistics and cost estimates for the provision of visitor services. She wondered what public outreach activities were to be conducted in place of guided tours, how the Secretariat had quantified the educational benefits derived from visitors and what value had been accorded to those benefits in the feasibility study. She was anxious to find out when the Secretariat intended to implement the General

Assembly's request that all United Nations offices should be treated equally.

64. The United Nations Office at Nairobi was a unique institution in Africa, and had a growing role to play in the follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development and in the New Partnership for Africa's Development. She asked how much weight had been given to the consideration that, while most Africans could not travel to New York to see the Organization's Headquarters, they could realistically hope to visit Nairobi. She was unaware of any decision of the General Assembly calling for the Organization to operate strictly for profit.

65. **Mr. Amolo** (Kenya) said that he had found some of the Secretariat's conclusions regarding visitor services at Nairobi casual and even flippant. He asked why it had been decided to place the gift shop outside the security perimeter of the complex; it should be within the unique environment of the United Nations, in keeping with the practice at other United Nations offices. He wondered who the architect of the new building was, and whether local cultural elements would be incorporated into its design. As he was very familiar with the area around the Nairobi site, he wished to dispute the assertion that it lacked the landmark features of its counterparts in New York and Geneva, recalling the Secretary-General's own comment that it was in a beautiful location.

66. Similarly, the observation that the collection of artefacts at the Nairobi complex was too small to make the site attractive to visitors must be examined. Experience showed that such collections were not accumulated overnight. He also wondered what action was being taken to make the site attractive to visitors from the local area. Recalling the positive discussions with the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security regarding the Nairobi site, he asked why security had become such an issue. He agreed with the representative of Nigeria that some of the benefits of guided tours could not and should not be quantified in financial terms; their impact on the lives and knowledge of individuals was more important.

67. **Ms. Lock** (South Africa) said that, as the Nairobi complex was the only United Nations office of its kind in Africa or, indeed, in the developing world, the Secretariat must find ways to implement the decisions of the General Assembly there, rather than finding reasons not to implement them. She asked what steps the Secretariat had taken at other United Nations offices to publicize guided tours, as she assumed that knowledge of visitor facilities had not been widespread when they had first been established. Recalling that the General Assembly had agreed to provide for additional security measures on the understanding that, given the unique nature of the Organization, they should not stand in the way of public access, she wondered how that view had been taken into account at the Nairobi facility.

68. **Ms. Udo** (Nigeria), recalling her question at the previous meeting, wished to know whether the Advisory Committee had received additional information from the Secretariat to use as a basis for its conclusions.

69. **Mr. Saha** (Acting Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that he had believed the Committee was already familiar with the information which the Advisory Committee had received. However, if that information had not been circulated, he would provide it.

The meeting rose at 4.45 p.m.

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Chairman: Mr. Ashe ..... (Antigua and Barbuda)
Acting Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Saha

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The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

Agenda item 124: Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 (*continued*)

Strengthened and unified security management system for the United Nations (A/60/7/Add.9, A/60/291 and Add.1, A/60/317 and Corr.1 and A/60/424)

1. **Mr. Veness** (Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on a strengthened and unified security management system for the United Nations (A/60/424), said that the primary responsibility for ensuring the safety and security of United Nations staff and premises lay with host countries. However, in certain countries, the Organization itself had to shoulder part of that burden in order to mitigate risks to its staff, particularly the persistent threat posed by elements of international terrorist groups that openly identified the United Nations as a target. While the Department of Safety and Security did not hunt terrorists or other criminals, it must work closely with host Governments to gain sufficient awareness and understanding of all material threats to the Organization.

2. The need for an enhanced and cohesive security management system had been apparent for some years and, as of September 2001, had become critical. However, there had been dramatic developments in technical security activity and expertise at the global level since that time, and the United Nations, which had been left behind by those advances, must now take rapid steps to modernize its outdated security operation to ensure the continued implementation of its mandates. The Department was therefore working vigorously to identify and resolve shortcomings in its security systems, particularly where such improvements would have immediate life-saving implications.

3. The Department's priorities for the biennium 2006-2007 were Headquarters safety and security, regional operations coordination and field support. It was seeking to create a world-class, flexible and effective security service, composed of a geographically representative team of outstanding security professionals and capable of enhanced field support in the most challenging environments. Since the work of the Department was potentially sensitive and could be counterproductive if misunderstood, it welcomed the guidance of the General Assembly contained in, inter alia, its resolution 59/276. Efforts to implement that resolution had been under way since January 2005 and could be grouped into three main areas, namely, operational effectiveness, integration and expansion.

4. Maximum reliance on host Governments was central to operational effectiveness, since their capacity to deal with perceived threats and risks to United Nations activities was an essential consideration when preparing threat and risk assessments and the related security plans. The decentralized framework of designated officials and security management teams in the field was one of the operational strengths of the system, which was being extended by the appointment of designated officials at duty stations where the threat to the Organization might previously have been less obvious. Host Governments had welcomed that initiative, particularly in view of the advantages of having a single point of contact for United Nations security matters.

5. Although progress had been made on many fronts since January 2005, gaps still remained. In order to enhance the quality of security management, an accurate analysis of the prevailing situation was essential. Therefore, taking into account the guidance contained in General Assembly resolution 59/276, the Department was reviewing the way in which it carried out threat and risk assessments. In future, pertinent information would be gathered from host Governments, open sources and United Nations personnel and fed into a continuous and objective analytical process. As a result, security measures would become increasingly cost-effective, country- or activity-specific, would be calibrated to the threat and to host Government capabilities and would focus on the safety of United Nations personnel and their dependants. The Department was also addressing shortcomings in technical security procedures, training and compliance tools. It was currently reviewing security phases and would shortly begin considering the safety dimension of its mandate, as well as the complex human resources management questions associated with recruitment.

6. In the area of integration, the Department had been cooperating with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations with a view to introducing a unified security management system for all civilian personnel.

Through the Inter-agency Security Management Network, it had continued to work closely with United Nations agencies, programmes and funds. The Network had developed a robust security management accountability framework, which had been submitted to the High-Level Committee on Management in early October 2005. In order to ensure the safety and security of offices away from Headquarters, the Department was liaising with the relevant directors-general and executive secretaries.

7. In the immediate future, the Department would be focusing on upgrading all aspects of physical security at Secretariat facilities worldwide. Needs at Headquarters were being addressed as expeditiously as possible in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 56/286 and the Department fully endorsed the essential steps taken to enhance the security of delegates and staff members through the implementation of an improved access control system. The so-called "global access control" project would address physical protection measures at offices away from Headquarters and, in accordance with the provisions of resolution 59/276 and the subsequent deliberations of the Fifth Committee, the Department would be submitting a report on that issue at the Assembly's resumed session. The Department's objective was to strengthen security as quickly as possible while ensuring that available funds were used to address essential needs ahead of recommended requirements.

8. As a result of its cooperation with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and offices away from Headquarters, the Department of Safety and Security had been able to use security resources systematically in response to the stream of humanitarian crises and higher-risk operations that had characterized 2005. Significant resources had been allocated to meet security needs in high-risk areas such as Iraq, Afghanistan and the Sudan, and the Department was committed to keeping those situations under review in order to achieve a balance between threat and response levels.

9. In order to expand and improve its operations, the Department needed to recruit new staff. Over the preceding six months, more than 6,000 applications had been screened and hundreds of interviews had been conducted. In order to meet short-term needs, early availability and certain technical skills had been accorded primary importance in the selection process. However, wide geographical representation was one of the most significant comparative advantages of the United Nations, as well as a potential asset for security professionals. Much remained to be done to ensure that the Department of Safety and Security was staffed by a full-time, professional workforce that fulfilled more appropriate geographical, age and gender criteria. To that end, the Department's newly appointed Executive Officer had been asked to urgently assess the current situation, diagnose any shortcomings in the current recruitment process and recommend remedial actions.

10. The previous year had been particularly challenging for the Department, which had been called upon to provide security support to numerous field operations and to the largest gathering of world leaders in history. One of its staff members had also been killed in a terrorist attack in Somalia. Consultations had been vital to its work, and priority attention had been given to the involvement of staff associations and unions. The expert advice and practical support of Member States had also been invaluable and further efforts would be made to deepen and strengthen links with them. The Department's ultimate objective was to prioritize service delivery in the field and to ensure that host Governments, designated officials, programme managers and world-class security personnel worked together to create a secure environment in which the Organization could implement its mandates.

11. **Mr. Fareed** (Director of the Secretariat of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on coverage of staff by the malicious acts insurance policy and on security spending by organizations of the United Nations system (A/60/317 and Corr.1), said that the report had been submitted pursuant to paragraphs 43 and 55 of section XI of General Assembly resolution 59/276. The steps taken to obtain a more complete understanding of the overall coverage of United Nations staff under the malicious acts insurance policy were described in section II of the report. While the data collection process had been difficult on account of time constraints, the overall results of the consultations had been positive. The United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination would continue working to ensure that all staff members were covered by the policy, but any expansion of coverage might have financial implications.

12. In March 2005, a survey had been launched in order to obtain a clearer picture of security spending by each organization of the United Nations system. Given that the organizations of the system currently utilized different budgeting and accounting systems for tracking security-related expenditure, it had been necessary to establish a common accounting framework for reporting such expenditure. Paragraphs 7 and 8 of the report detailed the steps that had been taken to that end. The results of the survey had shown that security spending had increased significantly during the reporting period. The Board intended to develop a better understanding of the breakdown of security-related expenditure and would be conducting a further survey for that purpose.

13. The work undertaken in both the areas covered by the report was ongoing and further information would be provided to the Committee once a more comprehensive strategy had been developed. The Board was also proposing to initiate steps to establish, on a system-wide basis, a standardized accounting and budgeting framework for security-related expenditure.

14. **Ms. Azarias** (Director of Internal Audit Division I of the Office of Internal Oversight Services), introducing the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on the utilization and management of funds approved by the General Assembly in its resolutions 58/295 and 59/276 for strengthening the security and safety of United Nations premises (A/60/291), said that OIOS had conducted an audit of security and safety projects at Headquarters and at the United Nations Office at Geneva with a view to determining whether the resources approved by the Assembly in its resolutions 58/295 and 59/276 had been used as intended and had been managed efficiently and effectively in compliance with established procedures. The report before the Committee provided updated information on the implementation status of the projects mentioned in the previous report of OIOS (A/59/396) and also reviewed the progress of new projects.

15. Of a total of 18 projects at Headquarters, 7 had been fully implemented, 3 had been deferred with a view to their incorporation into the capital master plan and 8 were currently under implementation with a completion target date of 31 December 2005. Of those 8 projects, 1 was proceeding satisfactorily, 1 had been delayed and subsequently interrupted because the relevant contract had expired, and the remaining 6 had been combined into one contract, entitled "security strengthening project at United Nations Headquarters", which was currently being executed by a private contractor. That contract was now at least six months behind schedule and had incurred additional costs of almost $2.6 million. The contractor had submitted a claim for compensation and had requested an eight-month contract extension to complete the construction work by February 2006.

16. While project implementation in Geneva was progressing well, the initial objectives and time lines had proven too ambitious. However, Geneva's decision to prioritize projects and to focus on a number of activities commensurate with its capacity had yielded positive results. Nevertheless, project management must be strengthened at the United Nations Office at Geneva. In particular, the draft security plan must be approved as soon as possible to confirm the assessment of the necessary security level and ensure that accountability was appropriately assigned. OIOS had found that the Office at Geneva had complied with United Nations procurement procedures in all but one case. However, its contracts with suppliers contained no penalty clauses and the consortium had failed to enter into a formal commitment to complete the projects within certain costs and time lines.

17. The report of OIOS contained eight recommendations calling for improvements in a number of areas. In general, management had accepted those recommendations and OIOS would continue to monitor their implementation.

18. When finalizing reports, OIOS provided programme managers with ample opportunity to comment on its findings and recommendations and incorporated any comments received into the report itself. However, OIOS was concerned that the comments provided by management during the finalization of its reports differed from those reflected in the Secretary-General's response. The report contained in A/60/291/Add.1 was a case in point and OIOS would be taking the matter up with management as a matter of urgency.

19. **Mr. Belov** (Programme Planning and Budget Division of the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts), introducing the note by the Secretary-General containing his comments on the report of OIOS (A/60/291/Add.1), said that the note had been submitted in accordance with paragraph 3 of General

Assembly resolution 59/272 and contained supplementary comments on some of the findings and recommendations of OIOS where considered necessary for further clarification. He agreed that the process of finalizing the report of OIOS needed to be refined and stood ready to work together with the Office to that end.

20. **Mr. Saha** (Acting Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) (A/60/7/Add.9), said that the Advisory Committee viewed document A/60/424 as an interim report, since it fell short of meeting all the requirements of the requested implementation report. Although the security management system was still evolving and undergoing change, a comprehensive report should be submitted once the Department of Safety and Security had become fully operational, which should occur in the coming months.

21. The Advisory Committee had received considerable information on the difficulties experienced by the Department of Safety and Security in the area of personnel matters, some of which echoed the concerns expressed by the Advisory Committee in its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 (A/60/7). The Advisory Committee had been informed that the matter was now in hand and trusted that the recruitment process would be completed expeditiously.

22. The results of the review of the level of the post of the Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General should be included in the comprehensive implementation report, and a review of the post of the head of the Division of Safety and Security Services should also be conducted in that context. The implementation report should also contain information on the revised security management accountability framework as well as on the review of all existing host country agreements.

23. The Advisory Committee had taken note of the information provided in document A/60/317 and Corr.1, and paragraph 17 of its report raised a number of additional questions. In particular, it had requested that information on why some co-located organizations with seemingly similar security concerns had significantly different security expenditure patterns should be provided to the Fifth Committee.

24. **Ms. Galvez** (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the European Union; the acceding countries Bulgaria and Romania; the candidate countries Croatia and Turkey; the stabilization and association process countries Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; and, in addition, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, said that the establishment of a new structure to ensure that safety and security were managed in a coherent, consistent and effective manner in the United Nations was a priority for the European Union. The Organization could only deliver its programmes in the field swiftly and effectively when risks to United Nations personnel were adequately managed. The Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security and his team were to be commended for their achievements in bringing the new Department into being, including the recruitment of a large number of staff in a relatively short period of time. The European Union looked forward to receiving a comprehensive report on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 59/276 at the Assembly's sixty-first session. It would also expect to take up at that time the issues of malicious acts insurance and security spending by organizations of the United Nations system, since it was clear from the relevant report (A/60/317) that more work was required before those matters could be considered by the Committee.

25. The European Union welcomed the level of cooperation between the new Department of Safety and Security and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. Given the size and complexity of the missions managed by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, it was reassuring that arrangements were in place to ensure both a clear line of command and coordination in the field. In that connection, the Secretariat should brief troop-contributing countries about the mechanisms for coordination between the two departments. Furthermore, it should indicate whether there was a similar spirit of cooperation with all the agencies, funds and programmes with which the Department of Safety and Security worked in the field. The European Union would also welcome further information on the status of the revised United Nations security management accountability framework, which should be completed as soon as possible. In addition, it wished to receive an update on the implementation of the recommendations of OIOS contained in document A/59/702.

26. The European Union looked forward to the swift assessment by the Department of Safety and Security of the most urgent amendments required to host country agreements and trusted that the negotiation of memorandums of understanding to stand alongside those agreements where necessary would not be too time-consuming.

27. With regard to the report of OIOS on the utilization and management of funds approved for strengthening the security and safety of United Nations premises (A/60/291), the European Union remained concerned about the slow rate of disbursement and the lack of progress in implementing the relevant projects. It noted, in particular, the delays and cost escalations in New York and the likelihood that, in Geneva, some $6.4 million of appropriated funds might remain unexpended by the end of the biennium 2004-2005 owing to delays in strengthening project management capacity. It was alarmed to see that the contracts concluded by the Organization contained no penalty clauses for non-compliance. It expected the Secretariat, when considering security and safety strengthening projects, to take account of the capital master plan.

28. Lastly, she noted that the report requested by the General Assembly on information and communication technology security, business continuity and disaster recovery had yet to be completed. In preparing its proposals, the Secretariat should focus on strategy and contingency planning, rather than on requests for new posts, since systems administrators should already be in place.

29. **Ms. Taylor Roberts** (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Group acknowledged the efforts of the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security and his Department to create a strengthened and unified security management system for the United Nations. While that task was formidable, it was of vital importance for ensuring the safety and security of all United Nations personnel, operations and premises.

30. Member States had emphasized the need for a comprehensive approach to the issue of safety and security. Yet, the report before the Committee (A/60/424) failed to incorporate some of the elements referred to in General Assembly resolution 59/276. The Group noted the progress made by the Department of Safety and Security in filling headquarters posts but was concerned about the delays in recruiting Field Service staff, which should have been the first priority.

31. The General Assembly had decided to review the security and safety officer posts approved in resolution 59/276 in the light of a comprehensive report to be submitted by the Secretary-General to the Assembly at its current session addressing all elements contributing to the Organization's security planning, including the updating and revision of host country agreements as well as the different capacities of host countries to provide security to the United Nations. However, the Assembly had since been informed that the updating and revision of host country agreements would take several years. The Secretariat should explain what the implications of the new time frame would be for the review of the aforementioned posts and why it had commenced recruitment prior to the completion of the new profile for security officers referred to in document A/59/365.

32. The General Assembly had also decided to defer consideration of the Secretary-General's proposal for a global access control system, pending the receipt of a detailed report on the matters specified in paragraph 44 of section XI of resolution 59/276. While a team had subsequently been established to undertake a comprehensive review of the project, the results of the review had not been presented to the General Assembly, nor had the Secretary-General sought the Assembly's approval of the preliminary design for the project. Nevertheless, one element of the project, the installation of turnstiles at entrances to the Headquarters complex, was already under way. That was a matter of concern to the Group.

33. The Secretary-General had been requested to submit to the General Assembly at its current session a revised United Nations security management accountability framework. That document would be crucial in ensuring the cohesion of the security management system and should be completed as soon as possible. Furthermore, the Group noted that the Secretary-General had yet to report on the measures available for disciplinary action in cases of non-compliance with security standards, norms and procedures, as requested by the Assembly in resolution 59/276.

34. The Group was concerned that the Secretariat had largely ignored the General Assembly's call for recruitment to the Professional posts created by

resolution 59/276 to be made on a wide geographic basis. In recruitment to all categories of posts, the Secretariat should bear in mind the need to maintain the Organization's international character. The Group noted the Secretariat's intention to review the adequacy of the current level of the post of Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security. However, it was the post itself that the General Assembly had planned to review.

35. The report of the Secretary-General (A/60/424) referred to a number of matters that would be addressed in separate reports to be submitted to the Assembly at its current session. The Secretariat should indicate whether those reports would be available within the time frame proposed. The Group would take up the issue of threat and risk assessment, which the report did not address, in informal consultations.

36. While the General Assembly had expressed concern that some staff working in the field were not covered by the malicious acts insurance policy, the report contained in document A/60/317 did not address that issue. Regarding security spending by organizations of the United Nations system, the Group shared the concerns expressed in the related report of ACABQ (A/60/7/Add.9) and expected to receive further information on the matter. It noted that the recent application of Minimum Operating Security Standards had adversely affected the utilization of conference facilities at the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). It therefore urged the Department of Safety and Security to work with ECA to minimize the impact of the security guidelines on the Commission's effective functioning. Lastly, it looked forward to discussing the recommendations made in the report of OIOS on the utilization and management of funds approved for strengthening the security and safety of United Nations premises (A/60/291).

37. **Mr. Berti Oliva** (Cuba) said that the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security faced a difficult task and was to be commended for his work thus f r. His delegation attached great importance to the safety and security of United Nations staff and premises. The adoption of section XI of General Assembly resolution 59/276 had been the result of protracted negotiations. It was therefore regrettable that the Secretary-General's report (A/60/424) did not meet the requirements stipulated in the resolution.

38. The Secretariat had made numerous errors in filling the new posts created by resolution 59/276. For example, it was not clear what efforts were being made to comply with paragraph 18 of section XI, in which the Secretary-General was urged to preserve the international character of the Organization in the recruitment of safety and security staff. The Secretariat stated that it had encountered difficulties in finding suitable candidates to fill the new posts but did not indicate what those difficulties were. Furthermore, no data was provided on the vacancy situation by duty station, although that information was available in the related report of ACABQ (A/60/7/Add.9, annex I). The Secretariat should explain the reference in paragraph 4 of the Secretary-General's report to the significant lead times involved in arranging additional accommodation in New York for the central staff of the Department of Safety and Security. In addition, it should indicate how many temporary personnel had been recruited for the Division of Regional Operations and under what mandate that had been carried out.

39. The Secretary-General's report referred to a number of actions to be taken in the last quarter of 2005. However, fewer than 40 days remained before the end of the year. The Secretariat should therefore provide up-to-date information on the status of those actions, so that the General Assembly could properly assess the achievements of the new Department of Safety and Security.

40. The General Assembly had emphasized that the primary responsibility for ensuring the safety and security of United Nations staff and premises rested with host countries. In that connection, his delegation wished to know when the updating and revision of host country agreements would be completed; those agreements were one of the elements that would be taken into account by the Assembly when it reviewed the security and safety officer posts approved in resolution 59/276. The Secretariat should also indicate what steps it would take in the event that staff recruited to fill those posts did not meet the criteria stipulated in the new profile for security officers which was about to be finalized. In addition, it should explain how paragraphs 35 to 39 of section XI of the resolution were being implemented, since there was no reference to threat and risk assessment in any of the reports before the Committee. While the Under-Secretary-General had alluded to the matter in his introductory

statement, his delegation would like more detailed information in that regard.

41. The General Assembly had expressed concern that some field staff were not covered by the malicious acts insurance policy. However, that issue was not properly addressed in the relevant report of the Secretary-General (A/60/317). The Secretariat should indicate what measures were being taken to rectify the situation.

42. Lastly, his delegation wished to know whether the installation of turnstiles at entrances to the Headquarters complex was being done within the framework of the access control project. It noted that the progress report on the review of the project would not be submitted to the General Assembly until its resumed session and that the Assembly had yet to approve the project design.

43. **Mr. Amolo** (Kenya) said that his delegation supported the efforts of the Department of Safety and Security and acknowledged that it was still in the process of development. As the Secretary-General stated in his report (A/60/424, para. 45), the primary responsibility for the security of all United Nations personnel rested with host Governments. His Government took that responsibility very seriously and, to that end, it had significantly strengthened the diplomatic police unit. It recognized that, for the Department of Safety and Security, maximum reliance on host Governments was central to operational effectiveness. His delegation warmly welcomed the cooperative approach taken by the new Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security and supported his proposal for the appointment of designated points of contact for security matters.

44. In discussing security, the primary focus should be on security in the field. With regard to recruitment, the new posts created by resolution 59/276 should be filled expeditiously and on a wide geographic basis. In that connection, the Secretariat should consider the use of local and regional human resources. His delegation noted with satisfaction the excellent cooperation between the Department of Safety and Security and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. It would welcome regular briefings of troop contributors about the mechanisms for coordination between the two Departments, as proposed by the representative of the United Kingdom. Lastly, the Department of Safety and Security must endeavour to minimize the adverse effects of applying Minimum Operating Security Standards at the Economic Commission for Africa.

45. **Mr. Mazumdar** (India) said that the question of the global access control system should be given further consideration, for two reasons. Firstly, it appeared that the Headquarters component of the system was being implemented without reference to paragraph 44 of resolution 59/276. Secondly, a number of new posts had been approved in the resolution without consideration of the implications of the implementation of the global system.

46. **Mr. Al-Ahmad** (Qatar) said that, like all other States, Qatar was concerned about the safety and security of the Organization and its staff, which were its most valuable asset. No organization could be expected to perform its tasks without a minimum level of safety and security and a comprehensive conceptual framework was therefore needed to facilitate the handling of all the technical and logistical aspects of the matter. However, increased spending on safety and security must not be at the expense of the Organization's other activities.

47. The Department of Safety and Security had clearly been making big efforts over the past year, especially with regard to the needs at Headquarters. He hoped that other duty stations and field missions and their personnel would receive similar attention. Host countries also had treaty responsibilities for the safety and security of United Nations personnel, but it must be remembered that there were wide differences in their capacities to discharge those responsibilities.

48. Assembly resolution 59/276 provided that all safety and security projects should take into account the capital master plan, but the Secretary-General's report did not confirm that the team working on the access control project would do so. His delegation would welcome clarification from the Secretariat on that point. It also drew attention to the General Assembly's decision that the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security should be appointed with full respect for the principle of equitable geographical representation.

49. **The Chairman** invited the representatives of the Secretariat to reply to the questions raised by members of the Committee and to bear in mind the comments on the new turnstiles made at the 23rd meeting by the representative of Jamaica, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

50. **Mr. Veness** (Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security) said that it would probably be more helpful to the Committee for him to go into the complex issue of the interface between the capital master plan, the strengthened security system at Headquarters, and the global access control project in the informal consultations.

51. However, he would like to emphasize that the capital master plan addressed the question of relocation during refurbishment of the Secretariat building, a project headed by the Department of Management. The project on strengthened security at Headquarters was also headed by the Department of Management. Its implementation, of which the installation of the turnstiles was one manifestation, had been determined by earlier General Assembly resolutions on the strengthening of physical security at Headquarters in response to the events of 11 September 2001. His own Department was providing technical assistance to both projects and unequivocally supported the judgement and decisions of the Department of Management.

52. The global access control project, under the leadership of the Department of Safety and Security, dealt mainly with situations at locations away from Headquarters. The Department had just received a report on the initial survey conducted at all such locations and was now formulating a process for project management that was consistent with the latest security and safety principles.

53. **Mr. Reuter** (Executive Director of the Capital Master Plan) said that he endorsed the comments of the Under-Secretary-General for Security and Safety. The projects on the strengthening of safety and security at Headquarters could certainly be integrated into any global access control system which the Secretary-General might introduce. As the representative of OIOS had pointed out, there were 18 such Headquarters projects authorized under General Assembly resolution 56/286, of which 7 had been completed, 3 had been deferred for consideration as elements of the capital master plan, and the remaining 8, which were experiencing some contract management difficulties, had been scheduled for completion within the approved budget by 31 December 2005. Six of those eight had now been combined under a single contract, to be completed by February or March 2006: a new on-site security control centre; additional physical security barriers for automobiles; upgrading of the physical barrier surrounding the site; securing of all utility points and manholes; additional perimeter lighting; and the turnstiles. None of those six projects was in conflict with the ambitious global access control system referred to in paragraph 44 of section XI of resolution 59/276. If it was decided that the security controls at the Headquarters site should be integrated into such a system, the technology could easily be adapted.

54. **Ms. Taylor Roberts** (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the comments which she had made at the Committee's 23rd meeting concerning the turnstiles project related to procedure rather than to the technicalities of the installation. The problem was one of lack of communication. The Member States must be kept informed of all safety and security projects, and new projects must be consistent with those already approved. They must be kept informed in particular of any matters affecting access, such as new turnstiles and identification cards. It was now apparent from what the Executive Director had just said that the turnstiles project was not in conflict with the global access control system, but the Member States could not have known that fact or whether the turnstiles were a temporary measure or part of a future permanent system.

55. **Mr. Van Schalkwyk** (South Africa) said that his delegation would welcome clarification from the Secretariat of the distinction between "physical security" and "access control". Clarification of the question of procedure raised by the representative of Jamaica would also be helpful. The turnstiles project seemed to show that yet again Headquarters was being given greater consideration than other United Nations locations. The problem might indeed be one of lack of communication, but as a global body the United Nations must take a global approach to such questions. It would be a waste of resources to install a turnstiles system which might later have to be replaced or which might prove incompatible with conditions at another duty station.

56. **Mr. Mazumdar** (India) said that his delegation endorsed the comments of the representatives of Jamaica and South Africa. It was not a question of the size or technicality of the current access control projects but of whether they were intended only for Headquarters or as part of a global system. Before proceeding further, the Committee must await the detailed report requested in section XI, paragraph 44,

of resolution 59/276, which should clarify the matters about which Member States had expressed concern.

57. **Mr. Berti Oliva** (Cuba) said that the Secretariat should state the source of the General Assembly's authorization for the safety and security projects to proceed.

58. **Mr. Reuter** (Executive Director of the Capital Master Plan) said that the six projects which he had described had been authorized under Assembly resolution 56/286 as urgent measures to strengthen security at Headquarters. They had not been integrated into the global access control system referred to in resolution 59/276 because, as the Under-Secretary-General for Security and Safety had pointed out, the information on which the formulation of such a system should be based had only just come to hand.

Agenda item 123: Programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 (*continued*)

Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council: United Nations Office in Timor-Leste (A/60/7/Add.10 and A/60/425)

59. **Mr. Thatchaichawalit** (Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts), introducing the report of the Secretary-General (A/60/425), said that in its resolution 1599 (2005) the Security Council had decided to establish the United Nations Office in Timor-Leste (UNOTIL) until 20 May 2006. On the basis of an exchange of letters between the Secretary-General and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee, UNOTIL had been funded since 21 May 2005 partly under the commitment authority provided by General Assembly resolution 58/273 and partly from savings under the United Nations Advance Mission in the Sudan (UNAMIS). The current report described the complete budgetary requirements for the period 21 May to 31 December 2005, which were estimated at about $22 million net or $23.9 million gross. The requirements provided for 15 military advisers, 60 civilian police advisers, 45 other civilian advisers, a mission staffing complement of 371 posts, and other operational and logistical support. The proposal was for a total of 101 international staff, 233 national staff and 37 United Nations Volunteers. The staffing changes reflected in the complete budget proposal included the establishment of an additional P-4 post of Gender Adviser and the upgrading of the post of Chief of Staff from P-5 to D-1. The other requirements related to non-staff costs.

60. In accordance with the established practice, the 2006 requirement for UNOTIL would be included in the consolidated budget proposal for 2006. The General Assembly was requested to approve a 2005 budget for UNOTIL amounting to approximately $22 million and to appropriate some $15.7 million net or $17.6 gross under the programme budget for 2004-2005.

61. **Mr. Maycock** (Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that consideration of the budget for UNOTIL had been made difficult by the results-based budgeting framework and by missing information, which the Advisory Committee had eventually received and had included in annexes II to IV to its report (A/60/7/Add.10). He wished also to draw attention to the letter from the Chairman of the Advisory Committee contained in annex I to the same report, which explained that the Advisory Committee did not consider that the granting of a commitment authority on 30 June 2005 implied approval of posts or positions for UNOTIL, and that it would examine all relevant details, including staffing, only when the full UNOTIL budget was presented. However, when the Secretariat had presented that budget, it had treated the posts or positions as already approved.

62. Similarly, in the absence of approved posts or positions at particular levels, the Advisory Committee had not considered proposals for post reclassification, but had instead regarded such proposals as requests to create new posts or positions at particular levels. Although the Advisory Committee was recommending approval of most of the posts or positions requested by the Secretary-General, it had qualified its recommendations in the cases of the Chief of Staff, the Chief Administrative Officer and the Gender Adviser, as explained in paragraphs 17 to 21 of its report.

63. **Mr. Meyer** (Brazil) said that the United Nations presence in Timor-Leste, which had helped to create a new, independent State, would help to develop national institutions and promote respect for human rights. Long-term development assistance from the United Nations, neighbouring countries and other donors was the best way to consolidate peace and bring its benefits to the population. The mandate given to UNOTIL by

the Security Council, in its resolution 1599 (2005), included emphasizing proper transfer of skills and knowledge to enable Timor-Leste's public institutions to deliver services in accordance with the international principles of the rule of law, justice, human rights, democratic governance, transparency, accountability and professionalism. To fulfil that mandate, UNOTIL must receive all the necessary financial, budgetary and administrative resources. The large investment already made in Timor-Leste must be protected.

64. His delegation noted that resource requirements for the period beyond 31 December 2005 would be included in a consolidated report containing the budget proposals for all special political missions. The Advisory Committee should clarify the impact of its recommended budget reduction and the reasons for recommending against the appointment of a Chief of Staff and Gender Adviser at the levels originally requested. His delegation agreed with the Advisory Committee that the additional information received from the Secretariat, the use of a modified results-based budgeting framework with quantified outputs, and the data on the activities of other partners present in Timor-Leste showed more clearly how the activities envisaged would contribute to the objectives of UNOTIL.

65. **Mr. Lantu** (Indonesia) said that too little time had been available to examine the report of the Secretary-General (A/60/425), which contained budget estimates for UNOTIL. The report of the Advisory Committee on those estimates (A/60/7/Add.10) had provided helpful information, but had raised concerns which his delegation shared. The budget presentation should have drawn closer links between UNOTIL, as a follow-on mission, and its predecessor, the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET), and should have clarified the relationship between UNOTIL and other partners in the effort to achieve sustainable development. It should also have contained more quantitative data, without which it was difficult to measure progress.

66. Given the commitment of the office to capacity-building in Timor-Leste, his delegation trusted that the proposed changes to its staffing would not affect the number of local staff. It concurred with the Advisory Committee that, rather than recruiting additional senior staff, the office should rearrange its organizational structure to meet its human resources needs and, in particular, that its small size did not warrant the appointment of a Chief Administrative Officer at the D-1 level.

67. **Mr. Kozaki** (Japan) said that the transition from UNMISET, a peacekeeping mission, to UNOTIL, a one-year special political mission, must ensure smooth and rapid progress towards a sustainable development assistance framework. His delegation agreed with most of the Advisory Committee's recommendations regarding the proposed budget of UNOTIL.

68. **Mr. Yoo** Dae-Jong (Republic of Korea) noted that information to supplement the original budget proposals for UNOTIL, which had been too vague and had been missing several of the basic requirements of results-based budgeting, had only been provided at the request of the Advisory Committee. His delegation therefore wondered what role the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts was supposed to play in guiding and coordinating the budget process. It noted in that connection that UNOTIL was merely the first in a series of special political missions whose budget proposals the Committee must consider at the Assembly's current session.

69. His delegation took note of the remaining observations of the Advisory Committee and hoped that the forthcoming consolidated report on special political missions would be in line with the principles of results-based budgeting and would contain all the necessary information. It concurred with the Advisory Committee's view that results-based budgeting had no meaning unless targets were established and that quantitative measures of progress should be included in the performance report for the mission. The transition from UNMISET to UNOTIL had neglected the opportunity to exploit synergies between the two missions, thus wasting existing experience and resources. His delegation shared the Advisory Committee's view that the posts mentioned in the proposed budget should be treated not as existing posts, but as requests for new posts.

70. **Ms. Galvez** (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the European Union; the acceding countries Bulgaria and Romania; the candidate countries Croatia and Turkey; the stabilization and association process countries Albania, Serbia and Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; and, in addition, Ukraine, said that the Union noted with interest the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee and wished to reiterate its support

for the work of UNOTIL. It would make further comments on the matter during informal consultations.

71. **Mr. Guterres** (Timor-Leste) expressed the hope that, despite the Advisory Committee's doubts about some aspects of UNOTIL, the Secretariat and Member States would find suitable solutions to enable the mission to continue the essential support that the United Nations provided for Timor-Leste and its society. He was confident that UNOTIL would find the right approach to capacity-building, which was his country's main preoccupation.

72. **Mr. Thatchaichawalit** (Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts) said that the budget reduction of $108,100 proposed by the Advisory Committee would lead to the post of Chief of Staff remaining at the P-5 rather than D-1 level, and to the post of Gender Adviser remaining occupied by a national rather than an international official.

73. The current biennium was the first in which results-based budgeting had been introduced for special political missions. That format was therefore a work in progress which would be improved in liaison with the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. Regular training on results-based budgeting would continue. In the transition from UNMISET to UNOTIL, many staff had been retained. The provisions made for the liquidation of UNMISET had operated until October 2005, thereby ensuring a smooth transition between the two missions.

Agenda item 151: Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (*continued*) (A/C.5/60/L.7)

Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.7

74. **Mr. Sach** (Controller), responding to an earlier request by the representative of Japan for further details about the use of assessed contributions for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration activities, confirmed that the estimate of $12,700,000 to cover operational requirements in those areas until 30 June 2006 was considered sufficient. Requirements for the period from 1 July 2006 onwards would depend on the progress of the mission. The agreement of the Security Council would be sought for any additional allocation of funds.

75. *Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.7 was adopted.*

Agenda item 121: Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors (*continued*) (A/C.5/60/L.6)

Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.6

76. *Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.6 was adopted.*

Agenda item 136: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (A/60/437 and A/60/551)

77. **Mr. Sach** (Controller), recalled that the General Assembly, in its decision 59/563, had decided to revert to the issue of the updated financial position of closed peacekeeping missions as at 30 June 2005 in the main part of its sixtieth session, and summarized the information contained in the relevant report of the Secretary-General (A/60/437) indicating which closed missions had funds available, which were in deficit and which had been used as a source of loans to active peacekeeping missions, to the General Fund or to the United Nations Tribunals. The Secretary-General had recommended that the General Assembly should approve the retention of the cash balance available from 13 closed peacekeeping missions in the light of the experience of the Organization's cash requirements during 2004/05.

78. When the report of the Secretary-General had been prepared, the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) and the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) had been expected to account for most of the borrowing from closed missions. However, current projections for the period until the end of January 2006 indicated that MONUC would need only $25 million, while $75 million was required by the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG), the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR).

79. The regular budget situation was much more uncertain than it had been at the Committee's 4th meeting, when he had forecast an available cash balance of $294 million based on expected payments of $400 million in the last quarter of 2005. Since then, payments of $30 million had been received, but the financial situation of Member States with outstanding

assessments made further significant payments unlikely. As a result, he predicted a cash deficit of approximately $30 million, which could be made up only by drawing on the balances in the accounts of closed missions.

80. **Mr. Maycock** (Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, contained in paragraphs 12 and 13 of its report (A/60/551), indicated once again that postponement of the return of available cash to Member States was a policy decision to be determined by the General Assembly.

81. **Ms. Russell** (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the European Union; the acceding countries Bulgaria and Romania; the candidate countries Croatia and Turkey; the stabilization and association process countries Albania, Serbia and Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; and, in addition, Iceland, Liechtenstein and the Republic of Moldova, said that the European Union maintained its long-standing position that funds, including accrued interest and other income, should be returned, in full and without conditions, to Member States.

82. It regretted that late payment of assessments, essentially by the biggest contributors and a handful of others, and non-payment of assessments by some other Member States, was forcing the Organization to consistently retain funds. Cross-borrowing from the accounts of closed missions in order to keep the Organization, the international tribunals and active peacekeeping operations viable simply masked the real issue of arrears and the Fifth Committee's inability to address that issue substantively. Until it did so, troop-contributing countries, many of which paid assessments in full and on time, would not receive full or speedy reimbursement.

83. Noting the explanation of the cash-flow situation given by the Controller, the European Union sympathized with his position, but stressed that the decision by the General Assembly to allow the Secretary-General to retain cash balances from closed peacekeeping missions in previous years was exceptional, and should not become the norm. The Organization's current financial straits made it unlikely that the Committee would be able to make much progress on the issue during the main part of the Assembly's sixtieth session. If further consideration was deferred until the second part of the resumed session, the European Union would like an accurate updated report from the Secretary-General on all the funds available to him, along with a recommendation for alternatives to simply retaining funds from the accounts of closed peacekeeping missions.

84. **Mr. Sach** (Controller) said that, while he appreciated the expression of sympathy with his position, the problem was an institutional one that was not confined to a single person or function and which could only be resolved by the membership at large.

The meeting rose at 12.40 p.m.

United Nations A/C.5/60/SR.26

General Assembly
Sixtieth session

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Fifth Committee

Summary record of the 26th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 22 November 2005, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Ashe ..... (Antigua and Barbuda)
Acting Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Saha

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Agenda item 124: Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 (*continued*)

Strengthened and unified security management system for the United Nations (*continued*)

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05-61408 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Agenda item 124: Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 (*continued*)

Strengthened and unified security management system for the United Nations (*continued*) (A/60/7/Add.9, A/60/291 and Add.1, A/60/317 and Corr.1 and A/60/424)

1. **Mr. Elnaggar** (Egypt), indicating that he was making his observations in English so that they would be accurately reflected, said that his delegation was fully committed to enhancing the security of the Organization and its staff. Recalling that the Department of Safety and Security had been established to unify the security management system and address the deficiencies described in the report drawn up by a panel headed by former Finnish President Martti Ahtisaari in the wake of the heinous attack on the United Nations compound in Baghdad in August 2003, his delegation urged the Secretariat to focus on establishing clear lines of authority, responsibility and accountability for security.

2. Echoing the concerns voiced by the representative of Jamaica on behalf of the Group of 77 and China at the Committee's 23rd meeting, and by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) in its report on the matter (A/60/7/Add.9), especially regarding the failure of the report of the Secretary-General (A/60/424) to respond fully to the request contained in section XI, paragraph 57, of General Assembly resolution 59/276, he indicated his delegation's concern at the Secretariat's tendency to establish new structures and furnish them with substantial resources without providing for detailed follow-up of the implementation of General Assembly mandates. Moreover, section XI, paragraphs 17 and 20, nad not been faithfully reflected in practice: of the 21 senior posts in the Department of Safety and Security, only two had been filled by staff members from developing countries, and the same imbalance had occurred with posts filled on a temporary basis. The Fifth Committee should be provided with data on the geographical distribution of all Department of Safety and Security posts, in keeping with the spirit of accountability and the arrangements for delegation of authority to which the General Assembly had agreed in the relevant resolutions on human resources management.

3. His delegation had listened to the Secretariat's response, at the Committee's 25th meeting, to the questions of the Group of 77 and China regarding enhanced security and access control at United Nations Headquarters. He wondered which specific provision of General Assembly resolution 56/286 on strengthening the security and safety of United Nations premises had given the Secretariat a mandate for the turnstile project, what resources would be required for the issuance of new grounds passes and which section of the budget those resources would be drawn from. He also asked why the mandate for a change in grounds passes, provided by the General Assembly in its resolution 56/286, had taken two years to implement and noted that, in section XI, paragraph 44, of its resolution 59/276, the General Assembly had deferred its consideration of the issuance of new passes pending the receipt of a detailed report from the Secretary-General.

4. The Egyptian delegation also wondered about a number of apparent contradictions in the handling of access control plans. It recalled that the Secretary-General, in paragraph 2 of his report on standardized access control (A/59/776), had announced the intention to establish a "project access control team"; that the General Assembly, in section I of its resolution 59/294, had both taken note of that intention and endorsed the recommendations and observations in the related Advisory Committee report (A/59/785); and that, as indicated in paragraph 33 of the Secretary-General's current report on a strengthened and unified security management system (A/60/424), the team had actually been set up. The team was to review and coordinate the implementation of a standardized access control system in close consultation with the Office of Central Support Services, but Egypt wondered how the Secretariat interpreted "implementation", as the General Assembly had not yet approved the access control project, and what role it intended to give the Office of Central Support Services.

5. As the response provided at the Committee's preceding meeting by the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security had shown that Headquarters and other duty stations were being treated unequally with regard to access control, Egypt would like more information. It was also anxious to find out more about the practical and protocol-related aspects of the turnstile plans, wondering whether only certain categories of people would be admitted via the

turnstiles, or whether Member States' Heads of State or Government, ministers and Permanent Representatives would also be expected to use them, especially while the general debate at the beginning of the General Assembly session was in progress. It also wished to know whether consideration had been given to the potential cost savings of needing fewer security guards and to the need to accommodate emergency evacuations. Furthermore, it would like a clearer indication of the individual responsibilities of the Department of Safety and Security and the Department of Management in the plans to enhance safety and security at Headquarters. The delegation of Egypt hoped that its own and other delegations' questions on safety and security would be answered in writing so that they could seek instructions from their capitals as appropriate.

6. **Mr. Veness** (Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security) said that well-designed threat and risk assessment was essential to the development of effective security measures. In view of the potential sensitivity of that process, he reiterated his appreciation for the Committee's guidance. Since the primary responsibility for ensuring the safety and security of United Nations staff and premises lay with host countries, risk assessments should be carried out by field offices on the basis of information provided by host Governments. In accordance with section XI, paragraph 35, of General Assembly resolution 59/276, the reliability and validity of information received from sources other than international organizations and Governments must be carefully weighed. The Department's overall aim was to produce objective threat and risk assessments that provided actionable guidance to the field while respecting confidentiality and maintaining the Organization's independence.

7. Within the framework of the threat and risk assessment process, Headquarters was responsible for maintaining quality in consultation with regional desks and other Secretariat departments, ensuring that threat and risk assessments and security phases were reviewed and updated and addressing any thematic assessment needs. The continuous evaluation of incident and accident trends was a valuable tool for analysing the consistency and adequacy of risk assessments and related measures and would also facilitate the anticipation of new threats.

8. The Department of Safety and Security was focusing on developing effective partnerships with host country law enforcement and security officials. The first step in that process was the appointment of designated officials and security management teams, and efforts were under way to address gaps in that area. Second, it was vital to reach a common understanding as to the Organization's vulnerabilities and the threats it faced. Both the United Nations and host Governments must work harder to ensure that the necessary dialogue took place on a regular basis. Once the relevant threats were acknowledged and defined, focal points for coordination, information exchange and emergency response must be identified within the host country's security and law enforcement authorities.

9. Specific security measures tailored to particular locations and/or threats should then be developed and implemented. At that point, an exchange of letters should take place between the United Nations and the relevant host Government to clarify and confirm the arrangements. Ideally, the process culminated with the signature of a memorandum of understanding or the amendment of existing host country agreements to reflect the new arrangements, followed in some cases by accession to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel, but those legal steps should be viewed as affirming rather than enabling measures.

10. Turning to physical security measures at main headquarters locations, he said that the term "physical security" encompassed all construction, fixtures, equipment and procedures that were designed to prevent unwanted access to United Nations premises and to ensure the safety and security, in both routine and emergency situations, of persons authorized to be on the premises. Unfulfilled physical security requirements at all seven main offices away from Headquarters had been grouped together into the so-called "access control" project. The Secretary-General, in his report on standardized access control (A/59/776), had proposed the establishment of a project management structure called the "project access control team", with the aim of planning and, in the event of approval by the General Assembly, coordinating the implementation of a comprehensive, fully integrated and standardized access control system, in close consultation with the Office of Central Support Services. It had been suggested that the team should start its work by reviewing existing studies and the external validation report and should then

undertake a detailed preliminary design and cost analysis.

11. In that connection, the relevant consultant had completed his site visits at the end of October 2005 and two sets of findings and recommendations were being prepared. The first set would contain guidance in respect of approved projects currently being implemented, whereas the second set, which would form an integral part of the comprehensive implementation report to be submitted at the resumed session, would focus on additional physical security requirements that had not already been addressed and approved by the General Assembly. In that connection, the term "standardization" would be taken to mean "fitness for purpose". Construction, equipment, organizations and procedures for physical security must address specific threats at particular locations.

12. With regard to staffing issues, he said that 79.9 per cent of the Department's 1,775 posts worldwide had been filled. It was expected that the remaining posts would be filled by the end of June 2006. In New York, 82.7 per cent of all posts had been filled. Vacancy announcements for 56 of the 83 vacant posts were currently on Galaxy and the remaining announcements were being prepared. The selection process should be completed within a few months. Since the post of Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General had only just been filled, he would prefer to defer commenting on it until the sixty-first session.

13. Almost 90 per cent of the safety and security posts worldwide had been filled. Although the recruitment processes in Geneva and Santiago had been delayed, all vacancies at those duty stations should be filled by the end of January and the end of April 2006, respectively. Chiefs of security at all duty stations had been able to proceed with the most recent recruitment exercise without compromising the complex work that was still outstanding on issues of key importance to career management, such as mobility and superannuation.

14. In the field, 70.8 per cent of posts had been filled. The selection process for the P-5 Chief Security Adviser posts had been completed and a roster of 262 candidates for P-3 and P-4 posts had been established. The Department was making every effort to select candidates from more diverse geographical backgrounds. An updated version of the information contained in the annex to the ACABQ report (A/60/7/Add.9) had been circulated.

15. In order to integrate security management into field operations, heads of mission from the Department of Peacekeeping Operations or the Department of Political Affairs had been appointed as designated officials in 12 countries, as well as in Kosovo and Western Sahara. Joint teams of Department of Safety and Security and Department of Peacekeeping Operations staff had visited Haiti, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Côte d'Ivoire to initiate implementation of integrated security structures, and visits to other peacekeeping missions were envisaged. In response to suggestions from Member States, the Department of Safety and Security would brief the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and troop-contributing countries on general and mission-specific security coordination measures.

16. The security management accountability framework had been discussed in detail at the annual meeting of the Inter-Agency Security Management Network. Since a number of technical agencies had expressed the need for alternative wording, the Office of Legal Affairs was working to devise mutually acceptable language. The Department was keen to ensure the early adoption of the framework. The issue of discipline had also been discussed at the Network's meeting, and it had been recalled that disciplinary measures were provided for in the staff regulations and rules of the relevant United Nations organizations. In that connection, the newly established Compliance, Evaluation and Monitoring Unit would support and examine disciplinary action by providing an independent, consistent and well-documented incident-reporting service. Lastly, he assured Member States that he would look into the question of access to conference facilities at Addis Ababa.

17. **Ms. Taylor Roberts** (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, requested that the response just given by the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security should be provided to the Committee in writing.

18. The Group realized that the Department of Safety and Security had been obliged to recruit staff speedily under the temporary arrangements referred to in the report of the Secretary-General (A/60/424), but wondered whether those arrangements had been in the hands of the Office of Human Resources Management

and whether candidates had been taken from a roster or whether some other method had been used. The Group also wondered why the Under-Secretary-General had said he would defer commenting on his Deputy's post until the sixty-first session of the General Assembly, when the report of the Secretary-General had indicated that a review of that post would be carried out at the end of the current biennium; in other words, at the end of 2005.

19. **Mr. Veness** (Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security) said that the response he had just given, together with his answers to the questions raised at the current meeting, would be provided to the Committee members in writing.

20. The need to fulfil pressing tasks had forced the Department to rely on temporary personnel. That genuinely temporary arrangement, which was drawing to a close, had been implemented in consultation with the Office of Human Resources Management. Temporary personnel had been selected primarily according to whether they were immediately available and possessed suitable skills, and most of them had been drawn from the United States labour market. The recruitment of longer-term staff would be more geographically representative.

21. While he would be pleased to review the post of Deputy Under-Secretary-General and to report thereon to the General Assembly, the review would be more meaningful once all of the three D-2 posts established in the Department had been filled. His Deputy had been appointed only one month previously, and the other two D-2 staff, who would cover regional operations and worldwide safety and security services, had not yet been selected. However, he would make an interim report if the General Assembly so wished.

22. **Ms. Taylor Roberts** (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that she was not asking for an immediate report or an interim report, but had merely been curious about the timing of the review of the Deputy Under-Secretary-General post.

23. Since revising and updating host country agreements would take several years, she wondered what the plans of the Department of Safety and Security were in that regard.

24. **Mr. Veness** (Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security) said that the practical benefits of close cooperation with host country authorities on security-related matters did not depend solely on the existence of a formal agreement, since such agreements merely served to reaffirm existing arrangements. Since the revision of host country agreements would take years, it might be more realistic, in the meantime, to concentrate on exchanges of letters as a way of updating security arrangements.

25. **Mr. Mazumdar** (India) recalled that, in section XI, paragraph 26, of its resolution 59/276, the General Assembly had decided to create 383 new safety and security officer posts, of which 249 would be established posts and 134 would be temporary. Pursuant to the following paragraph of the same resolution, those posts would be reviewed in the light of a comprehensive report that would be submitted to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session and would address all elements contributing to the security planning of the Organization, including, in particular, the updating and revision of host country agreements. Unfortunately, in the absence of such a report, the General Assembly's review of the posts in question would not produce the desired results.

26. **Mr. Elnaggar** (Egypt) drew attention to the relationship between paragraphs 26 and 27 of section XI of resolution 59/276 and stressed that many Member States had agreed to the creation of the new posts detailed in paragraph 26 on the understanding that the review described in paragraph 27 would be carried out. However, that exercise was designed to determine the impact of host country agreements and host country security services provided to the Organization on the level of financial and human resources to be requested for the Department of Safety and Security. The intention was not to carry out a complete review of all existing agreements.

The meeting rose at 3.55 p.m.

United Nations A/C.5/60/SR.27

General Assembly
Sixtieth session

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Fifth Committee

Summary record of the 27th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 1 December 2005, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Muhith (Vice-Chairman) ..... (Bangladesh)
Acting Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Saha

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Agenda item 140: Financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (*continued*)

Organization of work

Expression of farewell to the Deputy Secretary

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05-62392 (E)

In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. Muhith (Bangladesh), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 140: Financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (*continued*) (A/C.5/60/L.8)

Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.8

1. **The Chairman** drew the Committee's attention to draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.8 on the financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

2. **Mr. Elnaggar** (Egypt) requested that the meeting should be suspended in order to allow his delegation to review the text of the draft resolution.

The meeting was suspended at 10.12 a.m. and resumed at 10.15 a.m.

3. *Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.8 was adopted.*

4. **Mr. Kozaki** (Japan), supported by **Ms. Lock** (South Africa), noted that the reference to the establishment and development of the Entebbe logistical base, contained in paragraph 10 of the draft resolution, differed from the reference contained in paragraph 16 of the Committee's draft resolution on the financing of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (A/C.5/60/L.7). In future, the Committee might wish to ensure that such references were kept consistent.

Organization of work

5. **Ms. Taylor Roberts** (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, noted that there were a number of agenda items allocated to the Committee which had been opened for consideration but not yet discussed, as well as a number of items which had not been opened for consideration and for which the relevant documentation had not yet been issued. The Committee should therefore hold a formal meeting as soon as possible in order to consider the organization of its work.

6. **Ms. Lock** (South Africa) said that the late issuance of documentation was not acceptable and that her delegation would also welcome a discussion of the Committee's programme of work. Moreover, her delegation would be grateful if the representatives of regional groups could attend the Bureau's meetings in order to ensure that their various positions were fully understood.

7. **The Chairman** said that the Bureau of the Committee would meet shortly to discuss the issues raised with respect to the organization of the Committee's work.

Expression of farewell to the Deputy Secretary

8. After an exchange of courtesies, in which **Ms. Taylor Roberts** (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, **Ms. Udo** (Nigeria), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, **Mr. Torres Lépori** (Argentina), speaking on behalf of the Rio Group, **Mr. Horner** (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the European Union, **Mr. Elnaggar** (Egypt), **Mr. Iosifov** (Russian Federation), **Mr. Mazumdar** (India), **Mr. Kozaki** (Japan), **Mr. Yoo** Dae-jong (Republic of Korea), **Ms. Attwooll** (United States of America), **Ms. Mesquita** (Portugal), **Mr. Tal** (Jordan), **Mr. Mańczyk** (Poland), speaking on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States, **Mr. Debabeche** (Algeria), **Mr. Berti Oliva** (Cuba), **Mr. Sena** (Brazil), **Mr. Alarcón** (Costa Rica), **Mr. Mumbey-Wafula** (Uganda) and **Ms. Noman** (Yemen) took part, the **Chairman** thanked the Deputy Secretary, **Ms. Benary**, for her service to the Committee, and wished her well in her new responsibilities in the Office of the President of the General Assembly.

The meeting rose at 11.05 a.m.